



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2019

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Director  
Office of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** April 16, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **April 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

**We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A on the third floor.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the March 19, 2019 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

Since Jackie is on vacation, the other attachments for our meeting will **NOT** be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site. I will bring copies of the minutes, agenda, and other attachments.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

\*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 16, 2019 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from March 19, 2019.
3. The House Bill 20 and Senate Bill 344 passed, and the Governor must sign for final approval. We hope to have a way of collecting portions of State Agricultural Transfer Taxes. Moving forward developers will no longer be exempt from paying the State Agricultural Transfer Tax and at they will have to pay a minimum of 35% of the State Agricultural Transfers. (First year-100% Second year-50% and Third year and beyond-35%.)
4. There are several projects in the development phase for Farm Alcohol Production Facilities in both Up and Down County areas. I am also hearing how some farmers are agreeing to contract growing of specialty crops for the owners of these facilities. The Office of Agriculture believes contract growing of specialty crops will expand moving forward representing opportunities for farmers. The OAG will prepare a Biannual Report on the status of Farm Alcohol Production and the OAG has been asked by the County Executive to draft an Executive Regulation to implement Farm Alcohol Production.
5. We are still waiting for the next Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC follow up meeting. In response to a request from the OAG, Gwen Wright said that MNCPPC is retooling this project?
6. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot construction along Partnership Road is completed and electric service hook ups are underway. Comcast is waiving the installation costs to the residents including the long runs up their driveways for hooking up the service. Comcast is now working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road. **There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at some point.** <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html> The County has applied to the USDA for grant funding to expand broadband into the Agricultural Reserve. Several Ag Reserve residents have expressed interest to assist in replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot into other areas of the Agricultural Reserve.
7. Update on the FY19 1.5% Savings Plan for the OAG totals \$14,583. The Savings Plan will delay the date of payments of matching grants the OAG will be able to provide through June 30, 2019 in addition to reducing our marketing outreach for farmers markets and the farm tour. Update on the FY20 Budget Reduction for the OAG totals \$34,000. The County Executive accepted the OAG recommendation to reduce the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation-MAEF and Montgomery County Public Schools-MCPS by \$34,000. This reduction will reduce the number of days the Mobile Science Lab-Food Fiber and You can visit the schools from 129 days down to 48 days. The PHED Committee Work Session is May 1, 2019. The OAG has reached out to the

Edward Byrd Family Foundation to see if they could backfill the reduced General Fund and restore the contract.

8. On Tuesday March 12, 2019, the County Council held a continental breakfast for farmers to attend and then participate with a County Council Proclamation to celebrate National Agriculture Day. This was a well-attended event with over 30 farmers attending and several council members came to the breakfast to talk with farmers.
9. U.S. Senator Ben Cardin had to cancel the round table discussion with County farmers on Monday April 15, 2019 at 11:00. We will reschedule this event once we have heard back from the Senator's staff. **Please see the attached program-agenda for this event.**
10. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-May 21, 2019 at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

UM-Extension New and Beginning Farmer trainings-January-April 3, 2019  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 16, 2019 @ 7:00pm Up County Regional A.  
Planning Housing & Economic Dev. FY20 Operating Budget for OAG-May 1, 2019  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-May 7, 2019@ 7:00pm-AHFP  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-May 10, 2019@ 9:00am  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-May 14, 2019 @ 7:00pm  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-May 21, 2019 @ 7:00pm

# Agenda

## Farmer Roundtable Discussion

### U.S. Senator Ben Cardin

April 15, 2019

11:00 am

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Jeremy Criss**

**Opening Remarks**

**Senator Cardin**

**Group Discussion of Agricultural Issues**

**Topics:**

- *Seasonal migrant workers- H2B workers allocated for Maryland-Statement of Appreciation and thanks to Senator Cardin for recommending an additional 30,000 migrant workers for Maryland.* **Jeremy Criss**  
**Doug Lechlides**
- *Challenges with the seasonal migrant workers – H2A program.* **John Fendrick**
- *New 2018 Federal Farm Bill: Future Opportunities for producing Industrial Hemp.*
- Grain Marketing Trade Issues Discussion **Doug Tregoning**
- Overview of broadband in the Ag Reserve. **Mitsi Herrera**
- Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funding for Conservation Cost Share Programs offered by Natural Resource Conservation Service-NRCS. **John Zawitoski**

**Lunch**

**Wrap up / Closing Remarks**

**Jeremy Criss and Senator Cardin**